

Academy News

8th December 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week, you received a letter from our new incoming Headteacher, Mrs Elliott. I for one am very excited to begin working with her.

The next few weeks will be filled with important assessments to inform the children and teachers' teaching and learning priorities, followed by rewards events for those pupils who have consistently maintained good or better behaviour. This, in conjunction with good attendance, enables the best outcomes for our pupils.

On Thursday night I had the pleasure of attending the GCSE Music performances with my family - the showcase of talent was heart-warming and the Mariah Carey rendition by the girls increased the festive feelings a notch or two.

From January, we are making adjustments to our curriculum for the whole school. Next term, we will no longer have a lesson 5 Enrichment session on Mondays. Instead, we will be maximizing pastoral care through form tutors by switching lesson 1 and lesson 5. Lesson 1 will now become a tutoring session that will give time for:

- Assemblies and guest speakers
- Literacy and numeracy sessions
- Current affairs discussions
- Inter-form competitions
- More time for Heads of Year to connect with their year groups

As a leadership team, we have been so impressed with the work of our Heads of Year and how this has contributed to significant improvements in large parts of school life but feel we could benefit from greater opportunities to do this crucial work. We do remain committed to providing extra-curricular activities and will continue with:

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Sailing
- School Production
- Lunchtime and Afterschool clubs

This will be arranged using existing lists of students and the details of this will be published to them only.

Full details of the changes will be provided to students during form time on Monday.

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

Message from Sarah Watson, Acting Deputy Headteacher

I just wanted to let you know that I will now be away from the Academy for approximately 6-8 weeks for medical reasons. I will not be accessing my emails during this time.

If you are unsure who to contact in my absence, please get in touch with the main office, office@holbrookacademy.org, and they will put you through to the most appropriate member of staff. I will let you know when I am back at work and ready to receive emails and phone calls.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

13th December - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day

18th / 19th December - Reward trips

20th December - end of term

3rd January - Students return (Week 2)

CHRISTMAS
JUMPER
Day



Wednesday 13th December

Students may wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform. No other non-uniform items are to be worn.

Information for Parents/Carers

The Gatehouse Charity has been given funding by NHS East and West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups and Suffolk Community Foundation to provide free online mindfulness courses specifically for parent / carers.



The course is led by a clinical psychologist who is also a mindfulness teacher.

The Mindfulness for Parents' course is for parents / carers who;

- Care or are former carers of a child with additional needs.
- Care or are former carers for an adult family member or friend.

The care given can be formal or informal. We know that current or previous caregiving can deplete the people who provide it, and this course is designed to provide support to all, wherever they are in their caregiving journey.

This is a free resource available to parents/carers and the course starts on 8th January although other courses will be run throughout next year.

To book or find out further information via the Gatehouse website, please click on the following link:-

<https://the-mindful-life.com/>

Safeguarding Information

During school hours, please contact Miss Crabtree (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) or ask to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team - 01473 328317

At all other times, please contact Customer First : 0808 800 4005 or

If you believe there is an emergency and a child is at risk of **immediate harm** please call the Police on **999**.

Useful Information

Links to support services:-

Childline: 0800 1111

The Wellbeing Hub 'Teen Tips' Log in information was provided to parents/carers on 26th May. Please contact the office if you would like the information sent to you directly.

Online bullying www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Kooth - Online counselling service and peer to peer support for young people aged 11-25: www.kooth.com

Emotional Wellbeing Gateway website (Suffolk Infolink Directory) – Information, advice and guidance on common mental health issues. Access to mental health services like the Emotional Wellbeing Hub www.emotionalwellbeinggateway.org.uk

The Source website for young people – Sources of information and advice important to young people in Suffolk, including emotional wellbeing support: www.thesource.me.uk/wellbeing

Mental Health Crisis – Call 111, option 2

Sexual Assault: Call NSPCC 0800 136 663 or help@nspcc.org.uk